(b) whether it is a fact that conditions regulating such loans are so stringent and impractical that they render the schemes meaningless;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to make them more attractive;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of stipends/loans sanctioned by different Nationalised/ public sector banks during the last three years to dental students for pursuing post graduate studies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that public sector/ nationalised banks have formulated their own schemes for grant of educational loans to needy students for pursuing higher studies in India and abroad. Norms generally followed by the banks are as under:

*Eligibility:* All students who are not gainfully employed and have been selected for admission to any of general/ professional courses including technical and medical are eligible under the scheme.

*Age:* Students' age should not exceed 28 years at the time of financing (to be relaxed in case of SC/ST beneficiaries and persons belonging to minority communities).

*Amount of loan:*

(i) For studies in India: Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. 1.00 lakh depending upon the duration of the course.

(ii) For higher studies abroad: Rs. 3.00 lakh to Rs. 5.00 lakh depending upon the duration of the course.

*Repayment:* Repayment will commence 12 months after the completion of the course or one month after the student borrower starts earning which ever is earlier. Total period of repayment should not exceed 5 years from the date of completion of course.

*Rate of Interest:* Indigent students satisfying eligibility criteria stipulated under RBI Scheme (other than income criteria) as per RBI stipulation — 4% p.a. Rate of interest in respect of all other educational loans at present are as under:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Loans upto Rs. 2.00 lakh | Not exceeding prime lending rate of the bank. |
| Loans above Rs. 2.00 lakh | Banks are free to determine the rate of interest. |

(e) The existing information system does not generate the course-wise date asked for.

**Compromise Proposals of Non-Performing Assets of various Banks**

187. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of compromise proposals of Non-performing assets settled by the Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Punjab & Sind Bank, Allahabad Bank and Dena Bank in terms of the Guidelines of Reserve Bank of India during the financial year 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the amount involved in each bank alongwith the number of cases settled so far; and

(c) what is the total recovery made by each bank during the financial years 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 against the original dues more particularly where the accounts are in litigation and even more than five years have passed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) The Data Monitoring System of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not generate the information in the form asked for. However, as reported by RBI, the amount recovered in Non-Per-

forming Assets (NPAS) by five banks for the financial years 1994-95 to 1997-98 on account of compromise and write off is given below;

*Public Sector Banks Compromise/ Negotiated Settlements of NPAs*

(Rs. in crores)

| Name of the Bank | Reduction of NPAs on Account of Compromise/ Negotiated Settlements | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1994-95 | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 |
| Allahabad Bank | 116.00 | 29.00 | 43.00 | 115.78 |
| Dena Bank | 97.44 | 72.00 | 59.08 | 67.00 |
| Indian Bank | 97.00 | 104.00 | 41.00 | 23.37 |
| Indian Overseas Bank | 14.22 | 84.00 | 416.00 | 268.00 |
| Punjab & Sind Bank | 197.00 | 3.13 | 22.91 | 97.28 |
| Total | 521.66 | 292.13 | 581.99 | 571.43 |

**Extent of Subsidies Given by Government**

188. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the extent of subsidies (both hidden and transparent) being given by Government is not even exactly known to Government as admitted by the Finance Minister on 22nd of October, 1998;

(b) if so, how this 'subsidy' syndrome is going to be effectively tackled both from the political as well as administrative angle; and

(c) what is the percentage of subsidy as compared to total expenditure of Government?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) As per the discussion paper entitled "Government Subsidies in India" based on a detailed reserach study by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy the aggregate subsidy in 1994-95 for all Goods/services provided by the Central and State Governments is placed at Rs. 137,338 crore and constituted 14.4 per cent of the gross domestic product. The total provision for the subsidies includied in the Central Budget for 1998-99 is budgeted at Rs. 22025 crore and constitutes 8.2 per cent of the total budgeted expenditure. The endeaveour of the Central Government has been to rationalise the system of subsidies by making them transparent and effecting changes in prices of subsidised items whenever necessary.

**Cases Pending with Fera Board**

189. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that substantially large number of FERA Cases are pending with the FERA Board and the number of cases is on the rise; and

(b) if so, what is the number of cases pending with the FERA Board till date and the number of cases which are pending disposal for more than two years or so?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The number of cases pending as on 17.11.98 is 4688, out of which 3969 cases are pending for more than two years.